

In the Claims:

1. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An isolated [*Bacillus thuringiensis*] insecticidal protein [~~selected from the group consisting of TIC900, TIC402, TIC403, TIC404, TIC434, TIC961, TIC962, TIC963, TIC965, and TIC966~~] comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

9. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) A seed [~~from the transformed plant of claim 16, wherein said seed comprises said nucleic acid sequence~~] comprising the protein of claim 8 or an insecticidal fragment thereof.

18. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) Progeny of the seed of claim 17 wherein said progeny comprise said [nucleic acid sequence] protein or an insecticidal fragment thereof.

19. – 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The isolated insecticidal protein of claim 8 active against a lepidopteran insect pest, wherein said insect pest is selected from the group consisting of a Noctuidae, a Tortricidae, Epinotia aporema, Anticarsia gemmatalis, Pseudoplusia includens, European Corn Borer (ECB), a Tobacco Budworm (TBW), Black Cutworm (BCW), and a Diamondback Moth (DBM).

22. (New) The isolated insecticidal protein of claim 8 produced from a polynucleotide sequence present within a plasmid vector.

23. (New) The isolated insecticidal protein of claim 8 produced from a polynucleotide sequence present within a plasmid vector.

24. (New) The isolated insecticidal protein of claim 23 wherein said polynucleotide sequence has been optimized for expression in plants.

25. (New) The isolated insecticidal protein of claim 8 produced in a host cell, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell and a plant cell.

26. (New) The isolated insecticidal protein of claim 25, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

27. (New) The isolated insecticidal protein of claim 8, wherein said protein is used in a method for controlling a lepidopteran insect pest, wherein said method comprises contacting said pest with a pesticidal amount of said protein.

28. (New) The isolated insecticidal protein of claim 26, wherein said plant cell is selected

from the group consisting of a corn plant cell, a wheat plant cell, a rice plant cell, an oat plant cell, an onion plant cell, a grass plant cell, a cotton plant cell, a canola plant cell, a soybean plant cell, a tobacco plant cell, a fruit tree plant cell, a cruciferous plant cell, a pepper plant cell, an ornamental plant cell, a sunflower plant cell, a cucurbit plant cell, and a melon plant cell.